

Earth First!

Action Update

No 19

August 95

30p

NEWBURY

The A34 Newbury "Bypass" Euroroute is even more destructive than Twyford Down; 3 SSSI's, an AONB, 2 historic battlefields, and hordes of "specially-protected" species lie in the path of the bulldozers. It's one of the most insane of the DoT's insane plans - it must be stopped. IT WAS last December, when Brian Mawhinney announced a YEAR-LONG review of the scheme, but after only six months, on the day he was reshuffled, he approved the road leaving George Young to pick up the pieces. Thank-you Brian; a valuable reminder of the integrity of politicians.

The next Twyford looms. The roads lobby certainly thinks it's important, with the British Roads Federation leading a huge variety of vested interests in a rabid misinformation campaign. Meanwhile, the environmental movement is mobilising to support the local "Third Battle of Newbury" group: 4 complaints lodged with the EC; over 1000 local people pledged to "Beat the Bulldozer". An epic struggle is on the way. The contract might be signed at any time - or it could take months. COSTAIN may well get it. Get into your local Costain office / site and discourage them NOW! A national rally will be held in Newbury on SATURDAY 29 JULY; be there. This must be as big a show of strength as possible. Phone 0171 566 1667 for info. There's a camp on the route, and the campaign is ready for direct action. Sign the beat the bulldozer pledge and join the action - contact Third Battle of Newbury at PO Box 5520, Newbury, RG14 7YW.

WELLS

Work has begun on the section of the Wells 'Relief' road that cuts through a school playing field. The construction company Christiana Nielsen Ltd. (also responsible for the M11) have tried to fence off an area to begin work but were prevented by protesters and 300 school children who left school and chained themselves together. Arrests have been made with ball conditions preventing return to the site leaving mostly only the children to take action. Children were briefly treated by security. There are trees and a school building in the path of the road which have been occupied and more people (especially those with climbing experience) are needed desperately. Contact 0858 106615/116620 or 01749 880639.

SELAR NATURE RESERVE

On Monday 10 July, after 7 peaceful weeks at Selar Farm Nature Reserve- proposed opencast site near Neath, South Wales- Celtic Energy moved in to "translocate" the last of the protected watermeadows. It had been costing them £400 an hour to keep the contractors (Alaska Environmental Services) on site doing nothing. So, they decided to finish the job in one fell swoop with the help of their own private security firm- the South Wales Constabulary.

Celtic and Alaska in their "high regard for the environment" bulldozed their way through hedges and lopped huge branches off oaks in order to get into the watermeadows. The police were in total collusion and behaved like moronic thugs. Benders were pulled down and their occupants bundled into police vans, walkways were cut with people on them and arrests were made for, amongst other things, swearing at a lorry and rolling a fag. One road access bridge was picketed and a Group Four car was trashed, on deaf!

Things are quieter at Selar now. A permaculture garden and compost loos are being constructed. There is no



The Kids in Wells say NO to the road

news as to when Celtic will try and evict people from the woodland.

Some of those bailed off site have moved to another proposed opencast, nine miles from Selar where work is due to start next month. Beautiful old barn, farmhouses and huge trees. People needed urgently! Contact 01222 383363 or 01655 873993

350 locals staged a march against the proposed mine on Thursday 20th July.

OPEN CAST EXPLODES

Leeds EIFI are setting up a camp on a proposed opencast site near Leeds, involving a camp and treehouses, bang in the middle of a site, but quite possibly with no danger of eviction! They especially need people experienced in treehouse building, if possible with climbing equipment. If anyone can help, however temporarily, contact 0113 262 9365.

Darlington EIFI need help setting up a tree village in Chopwell Wood, Green Chopwell, nr. Gateshead. There is strong local opposition to this site being open casted, particularly since Durham Coalfield was closed due to there being, "no demand for coal". The National Union of Miners oppose the mine. Red squirrel, Scottish Wildcat (or Geordie Tabby as it is locally known) and badger sets are under threat. Contact Hugh 01325 356586 or Phil 01207 562150.

JIM AND STUART

Jim Chambers and Stuart Edward have been found guilty of criminal damage to a digger at the M11 construction site and sentenced to 18 months each. This was a lot more than they expected. The verdict was by a jury majority decision but after the judge showed bias in his summing up, an appeal is possible. Jim, who has already served 5 months on remand,

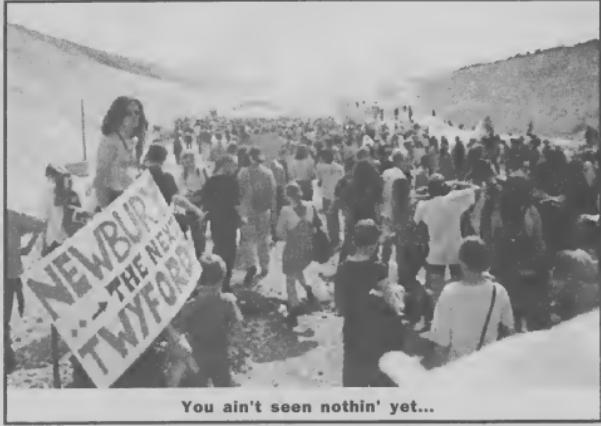
can be written to at PV2504, HMP Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, London, W12. Stuart's address is not yet known, but he'll need major support.

M66

A camp has been set up on the route of the M66 extension by a group of local residents at Daisy Nook Country Park. The contract for the camp area is still under tender, but there are plans to landfill the valley, an SBI, this summer. The camp is primarily made up of people who are keen to save their open space but who have little or no experience of this type of protest. More people are needed to come and stay and/or advise and take part in actions. Local press coverage has been very sympathetic. Meetings/actions Tuesdays 8pm, Sundays 1pm and Wednesdays. Directions - from the A627 Oldham-Ashton Rd (409 bus) take Newmarket Rd, left into Stannysbrook Rd and left along the Holinwood branch canal path for 100 yards. Contact 0161 6284727 or 0161 6274862.

RAVE AGAINST THE MACHINE

On Sunday 23rd July, around 3000 people staged a street party in Islington High Street. This resulted in the closure of one of the main roads into London. A beach was created in the street, along with cafes, live bands, sound systems and jugglers. A good time was had by all, especially the kids. Think of it - a road full of people, not cars. The way it should be! The massive police presence was caught totally off guard, believing the event would be in Camden. However, at 7 pm, teams of riot police moved in. People were chased through traffic, causing more disruption. Many people were badly injured and several stragglers were hospitalised as police ran riot amongst the party-goers. More info: Reclaim the Streets: 0171 254 2290.



You ain't seen nothin' yet...

BREAK THE M11 LINK

"Munstonia", the last house in the port of the notorious M11 Link road was demolished on 20th June. Following a reliable tip off, about 75 people put up a determined resistance to the destruction. Despite an early start and the presence of several hundred police and security it took 7 hours to remove everyone from the building. Greenman, an area of public land near the busy Green Man roundabout is still being strongly defended. A camp is flourishing there, and new faces are welcome. 2 weeks ago the case for evicting the site went to court, so it could happen any time now. Starting Monday 24th July, there will be regular weekly actions - all welcome. Meet 10.00am at Wanstead Environmental Centre, 1, Wanstead High Street (nearest tube station: Snapsebrook) on Mondays and Fridays. For more info ring 0181 5274996.

A30

There are now 15 tree houses at this camp and a very large tunnel system is being constructed. Steel pipes and cement are desperately needed, so if you're going down to the camp, get some! Offices actions against the consortiums bidding for the contract will be happening soon - contact A30 Action for offices in your area. The campaign also held an open day for locals and anti-Wells bypass campaigners. This was filmed by World in Action. On the eviction front, there is talk of an invasion within the next few weeks. Contact 01404 815729 or 0385 2781567 for further details.

THANET WAY

The 2 squats on the route of the A299, Thanet Way, were evicted on Friday 21st July. Over a hundred police from London plus another hundred security guards, bailiffs and the Under Sheriff who did Wanstonia, all turned up to get the squatters out, all 7 of them! However, 80 people did turn up in support. Highpoint squat had a 39 ft. tower on the roof which proved a problem as both the cherry-pickers the police brought fell apart... that's justice for you! 2 arrests occurred on the day. Total arrests now stand at 43. Since the arrival of the security guards several assaults have occurred on the protesters. A march on June 17th went in the protesters favour as most of the small amount of marchers were children, making the police, who turned out in force, look a bit silly!! As always, more people are desperately needed to continue the resistance. There is a Full Moon Party / Action on the 10th of August. Contact the Blue Road Action Group 01227 275404 / 0378 693157 (mobile)

COME TOGETHER

In early July people active in Earth First!, Road Alert and Reclaim The Streets met with representatives of Friends of the Earth (all the top bogs) and Greenpeace in the FoE offices in London. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how best the NGO's and the Grassroot groups can work together and move forward as one movement.

FoE are obviously keen to cooperate with EFi etc. and to officially endorse our Direct Action tactics. Hooray! All groups agreed not to "brand" campaigns with their own name in future, but to tackle them together. This is a very positive step. The government and destruction companies depend on the movement being weakened by internal disagreements. Together we could be a great force and FoE will be willing to finance some campaigns which use Direct Action.

Greenpeace are in the process of getting together an "Action Network" to link every single environmental campaigning group in the country and are planning a gathering next month to get it going. So Get out there and talk to your local FoE and Greenpeace groups. Make sure they are supporting and endorsing Direct Action and get working together! Lets find some common ground and leave any differences behind us.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Do Or Die (No. 5) is now out.. it's true, we've actually seen it! Yes, EFi Action Update's big sister publication has hit the streets with in depth news of radical environmental protest in the UK, and throughout the world. Packed into 100 pages, this is essential reading to appreciate how the movement is progressing and the worldwide scale of radical environmental action. Send £1 to Dead Trees EFi, payable to Earth First! for a copy or for distribution enquiries.

Corporate Watch (the research arm of Earth First!) have produced a 70 page guide to the companies involved in "road privatisation" in the UK: the firms bidding to design, build, finance and operate "shadow-tolled" roads. Entitled, "Destroy! Burn! Fell! Obliterate!" it provides detailed information on all the destruction companies we know and love: an essential resource for any campaigner. It's available for just £2 from Corporate Watch (address on the back). If you'd like to get involved in researching companies they also produce a "Guide to Researching Companies". Send them an SAE and 2 first class stamps.

Justice? have produced "The Book", formerly known as "The White Book". This gives details of 200 active

collectives defying the Criminal Justice Act, as written by the groups themselves. The definitive Yellow Pages of protest culture! Copies available for £4 (incl p&p), £3 to listed groups. Cheques should be made payable to "The Book". Address on back page.

Red Kite is a pluralist, left-wing, green, feminist magazine - covering topics of interest to just about everyone. Definitely worth a read and also to inform of your campaign. For a years subscription send £3 unwaged / £6 waged to Red Kite, Brynmadog, Gwernog, Carmarthenshire Dyfed. SA32 7RN.

For those of you who haven't yet seen the summer edition of Squall - the magazine for sorted itinerants - get one! Full of information to inform, inspire and anger concerned human. Forget the main stream media, this is the business. £7 a year subs, £1.80 per issue from Squall, c/o 2 St. Paul's Rd, London. N1 2QN

CONSCIOUS CINEMA

Conscious Cinema are now producing a monthly video aimed at, and coming from the direct action / social justice / environmental movement. The video contains up to date news on events happening now and the people making them happen. It is available for a donation, providing it is shown at open venues. These can be anything from someone's front room to a local hall. Send a SAE to Conscious Cinema, PO BOX 2679, Brighton, Sussex. BN2 1UJ for details. Tel. 01273 679544 / 0585 312488 (mobile). E-mail: cinema@intermedia.co.uk

Undercurrents 3, featuring 110 minutes of positive and entertaining coverage of the issues that matter is available for £9.50 waged, £6.50 unwaged, from Small World, 46 Ryomers Lane, Oxford, OX4 3LB. Cheques payable to "Small World Media".

SAVE OUR SEVERN SIDE

The route of the proposed M4 Relief Road, S.Wales has just been announced. This bypass, to the south of Newport, will bypass the third bypass, which bypassed the second bypass, which bypassed the first bypass, which bypassed the town centre. The only people who have gained in Newport are the construction companies, the car manufacturers and pro roads lobbies like the AA. The people and the environment lose. Further Info: Save Our Severnside, Major House, The Square, Major, Gwent NP6 3HY.

MCLELIB TRIAL TRANSCRIPTS SCANDAL

McDonalds have, since Friday 14th July, withheld entirely daily court transcripts from the defendants in an attempt to deter reporting of the case here and around the world. The transcripts cost over £350 per day which, Helen and Dave can't afford. It was openly admitted by McD's that the aim of this move was to prevent the free circulation of information about their activities. A) Why do defendants have to BUY transcripts from their own case? B) How can McD's justify such blatant injustice? Protests have been made both in and out of court. Contact the McLibel Support Campaign for more info. 0171 713 269

M65

Richard Turner Associates, the climbing company involved in the eviction of Stanworth Valley are presently refusing to let their climbers provide vital evidence to help clear protesters of trumped up police charges. Perhaps if you asked them nicely on 01246 861738 they might change their mind.

LAMB PACKING A PUNCH

The new Lloyds and Midland Boycott Campaign pack is now available for the suggested donation of £1, and includes the LAMB guide to NVDA. Contact LAMB, c/o Grassroots, MUSU, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PR. Tel. 0161 274 4665, email MFEJJP@mhi.muc.ac.uk. Contact them for more info on banks involvement in 3rd World Debt.

Also, the long summer months are the best time to have a bank action - put the eco back in economics. Lock on to a leaflet dispenser tomorrow!

How to contact Earth First! Action Update.

By phone: 01222 383363; by post: Action Update , PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX; by fax: 01222 640666; or finally by email to "actionupdate@gn.apc.org". Articles should reach us before the 20th of the month for inclusion in next month's AU! For replies please enclose a SAE. Send subscriptions/requests for bulk copies/ distribution enquiries to Dead Trees EFi. To subscribe to the free e-mail server give us your details. Please send us a donation or stamps if you can afford it (we rely on getting atleast £50 a month in donations to be able to send free subscriptions to community groups etc.).

DERBY BY-PASS

Actions happening and they've got a new contact address (see back page). Talk of a possible camp and easy digger-diving so go and help out - and please let us know what's going on!

POLICE RAIDS

Triggered by the massive Anti-Live Export campaigns, there have been wide spread raids & surveillance on the green anarchist/animal liberationist movement. In an attempt to close down one of the movement's last communication channels, police raided 'Green Anarchist' magazine, confiscating contacts, files and arresting a number of individuals for 'conspiracy to produce materials inciting criminal damage by fire'. Raids followed at connected magazines, 'The Lancaster Bomber' & 'Eco-Vegan'. Despite the arrests & raids, Green Anarchist managed to get an edition out, which led to further police suppression. Grassroots anti-live export activists (many new to protest) have been suffering similar actions, getting arrested and having their houses searched. Such action is meant more to intimidate the community than to gather intelligence. Nearly every member of the Campaign Against Live Freight has suffered this treatment and many Shoreham residents have reported being followed. Don't get paranoid, but safeguard contact lists and remember to mention that secret action with 500 eco-terrorists every time you use the phone!

TARGET COSTAIN

Costain are likely to build the Newbury Bypass, are building the Cardiff Bay Barrage with Balfour Beatty, building motorways from the Second Severn Crossing and are heading one of the consortiums bidding for the tender on the A30 Honiton to Exeter route. They are also in serious financial difficulties. Don't wait for someone else to start a campaign against them. Look them up in the phone book and go visiting!

PROFITS FROM ANIMALS?

The following article was sent in by an annoyed vet. The RSPCA runs a 'Cruelty Line' - a nationwide 24-hour phone number which you can call if you come across an animal in need of help. However, only call if you feel like letting yourself in for a load of agro as in most cases they will do nothing at all. Even if they do send an inspector, it is their official policy to destroy the majority of animals which come into their care 'for reasons of expediency', even though they've got £21 million in their reserve fund.

So if you should need to get help in dealing with lost/ill-treated/injured animals you're probably better off trying one of the thousands of underfunded local Animal Rights & Rescue Groups. Veggie Catering Company Ltd (180 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham NG1 3HW. Tel 0115 9585668) produce a comprehensive and regularly updated directory of such groups for £3 or will send a print-out of groups in individual counties on receipt of two 1st class stamps.

EARTH FIRST! GATHERING

The next Earth First! National Gathering is set for Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September in Middlewood, Lancashire (near Horby). So it's time to get thinking what you can contribute to it - talks, displays, training in skills or just good fun and energy! Make it a big success by bringing what you'd expect to find for a gathering of the clans. The site is in a valley and sorry but dogs aren't welcome. Bring a tent and Vegan/Vegetarian catering will be available. There's a charge of £2 for some of the organising costs. For further information contact Upper Nene EFi on 01604 39583.

NUCLEAR TESTING

Protests against the French state's decision to resume nuking places for practice continue. As well as Greenpeace's high profile activities there have been many mass demonstrations around the world. Boycots of French goods are spreading. Don't Wine - Act Now are planning a range of novel actions involving French wine, 0121 378 5558. 2 people have been arrested in connection with the burning down of the French Consulate in Perth, America and the British government have not come out against the tests... funny that, as they are all in NATO and share test data.

Vigils are being held outside the French embassy in London and Edinburgh every week (see diary dates).

Faslane Peace Camp (Scotland) are having 4 days of actions based on the 4 elements in memory of Nagasaki. Happening from the 6th - 9th August. There's also a women's camp on the gate. Bring tents, mad ideas etc. 01436 820901.

SOLSBUY HILL

On 19th June, 30 people from Bristol and Bath stopped work on the road through Solsbury Hill. Amey were intending to sack all their security guards as they thought actions had stopped. The bloke in charge almost had a break down when everyone arrived! So, to ensure all the security keep their jobs were going to give them another chance to rough us up... Yes, it's the Solsbury Hill Summer Gathering! Friday 11th to Monday 14th of August, with fun and actions for all the family. Camping on the hill and bring what you'd expect to find. More details 01255 448556. There have also been protests against Wessex Water who have applied to use Batheaston Reservoir to dump waste spoil from the road works. This is now home to a whole range of plants, birds and mammals. Not content with trashing Solsbury Hill they now want to trash another beautiful area with the waste!

COMMENTS

Interested in helping get an EFi bulletin board sorted on the internet? Contact Chris on 0161 8617895. Anyone interested in setting up an Earth First! group in Bedfordshire around Sandy (particular in relation to the A1M), contact Tina on 01767 683473.

Belfast EFi have a road scheme and open cast mine to oppose if anyone is into helping out.

Best wishes to Phil from Road Alert! who fell 35 feet out of a tree on the route of the proposed Newbury By-Pass. He's now up and hobbling around.

Critical Masses in Nottingham are on the 3rd Friday of every month and not the 2nd as reported last month.

HUNT SABS

The trial of two hunt sabs charged with violent disorder after a demo against the Criminal Justice Act at the Essex Foxhunting last November ended in humiliation for Essex police. The case against Ken Edmundson, was thrown out of court and the remaining defendant, Dale Johnson, was cleared of assault, but instead convicted of resisting arrest! Both men spent over a month in jail on remand as a result of these trumped up charges. It was claimed they had attacked a police officer but it became clear that police had attacked sabs, including a woman who was beaten semi-conscious. Claims of "mob broke cop's arm" turned out to be a sprained wrist when someone fell over.

A new publication by Hunt Sabs, 'Who's Afraid of the CJA?' shows that the Criminal Justice Act has been a disaster in the first season of its implementation. Contact Hunt Sabs: 0115 659 0357

LIVE EXPORTS

On Tuesday 11th July, Essex police inflicted extreme pain and violent torture on anti live export protesters who had formed a human blockade at the Essex port of Brightlingsea.

18 Protesters were chained underneath a bus. Police officers entered the coach without warning by smashing their way through the doors. They had bolt cutters, but they were totally useless, since the chains were not accessible. The police officers proceeded by inflicting so much pain on the chained up protesters, that they had to undo their chains. In some cases the pain was inflicted by squeezing testicles, twisting limbs and applying stiff handcuffs as a lever to dislocate joints and to damage the soft tissue on the wrists.

DIARY DATES

11 Direct Actions: Every Monday and Friday, 10 am. Meet Wanstead Environmental Centre, 1 Wanstead High Street, London. Nearest Tube: Shoreditch. 0181 527 4896 / 0181 989 8741

Every Tuesday: weekly vigils/actions - 7.30 pm - outside French Embassy (London) Against Nuclear Testing. 0171 607 3616.

Every Friday: Actions outside the French embassy in Edinburgh 10 - 11am.

JULY

28th -31st: Selsfield Women's Peace Camp. 01706 371387

29th Sat: Rally at Donnington Castle against the Newbury By Pass. 2pm. 01635 521770

30th Sun: Reading Advance Party March/Rave. Assemble 1.30pm Hoddesdon Rd Recreation Ground. 0599 637352
Mon 31st: Twyford Defenders at the High Court, London. Demo outside. 01635 521770

AUGUST

1st -17th: Vigil for Mumia Abu-Jamal 24hrs a day outside American Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London. Nearest tube: Bond St.

1st-18th: Ecotopia 95 Poland, 00 31 20 665 7743 - seriously big environmental gathering / communal living experience.

4th-6th: Shut Selsfield Camp and Actions. 01706 371387

6th-9th: Nagasaki NVDA, Faslane Peace Camp, Scotland. 01436 820901

10th Thurs: Mass Trespass/ Full Moon Party. Thanet Way. 01227 275404

11th-14th Solsbury Hill Summer Gathering. Actions, Music and Fun! 01225 448556.

12th Sat: Save Mumia Abu-Jamal Action: Bath. 01225 448556

12th Sat: Save Mumia Abu-Jamal Protest: London. Meet 12 noon, Oxford Circus Tube. 0171 274 6655

12th Sat: Hunt Sabs Day of Action, Northern England 0115 959 0357

14th-19th Democracy & Ecology Conference, West Coast of Scotland 0131 229 9052

18th Fri: Mass Sit-down Brightlingsea. 6 months of Shame. 01245 420178

25th-28th: Green Student Network Summer Camp, Mid Wales. Contact Adam 01703 315643

28th - 2nd Sept: Peace Camp at BAE Warton. Stop the Hawks 0161 834 0295

SEPTEMBER

3rd - 7th: Demos at Arms Exhibition, Aldershot. 0171 281 0297

9-11th September: Glasgow DIY conference??? 0141 2265066

22nd-24th: Earth First! National Gathering, Lancashire. Workshops, help needed 01604 39583.

OCTOBER

11th - 15th: Green Party Conference, Southport, Lancs. 0181 882 0955

16th Mon: World Wide Day of Action Against McDonalds

28th Sat: Anti-Corporations Fair. 11am-8pm. Conway Hall, London. 0171 713 1269.

NOVEMBER

31 Oct-5th Nov: Earth Nights. Pixies help nature strike back!

EDITORIAL

Things seem to be heating up this summer on the campaigning front, so look after each other. Remember - it's our thoughts and minds that unite us, not our hair styles!

The Gathering is next month so it's time to start thinking what issues you'd like to bring up if you're coming. Regional networks and gender workshops have been mentioned several times.

Please note that Earth First! does not have a head office or anything. If you want to contact the network urgently, ring the numbers on the back page, not Cardiff EFi who are but one group.

As always, we're relying on some donations to come in this month to keep us afloat, so please see what you can do. We don't have any big fund raising machine for Action Update. Just a few cheques from you lot!

DISCLAIMER: Go on, come and have a go if you think you're hard enough... only joking nice Mr Anti-Subversives man!!!

EF! CONTACTS

A30 Action
PO BOX 6
Ottery St. Mary
Devon, EX11 1YL
01404 815729
Mobile 0365 2781567

An Talamh Gias
c/o Anna
Abbey St
Ballinrobe
County Mayo, Eire

Avon Gorge EF!
Box 2
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
01225 448556
01225 314040

Belfast EF!
c/o 3-5 Denegal Lane
Denegel St
Belfast

Birmingham EF!
c/o 115 Allesley Rd
Moseley

Birmingham B13
0121 449 5452
Fax: 0121 449 6675

Blue Route Action Group,
98 Lucifer Drive
Seasalter, CT5 4SB
01227 275404

Mobile 0378 693157
Caledonian Green Circle
67 Burghhead Drive
Linthouse

Govan, Glasgow
Cambridge EF!

Box E
12 Mill Road
Cambridge,
01223 69347
cef@gn.apc.org

Camden EF!
First Floor Flat
68 Tollington Rd
London N7 9PZ
0171 607 9937

Cardiff EF!
PO Box 7
Cardiff, CF2 4XX
01222 488153
Fax: 01222 640666
scell@cardiff.ac.uk

CHEs
PO Box 99
Chichester
E. Sussex

Cisbury Ring EF!
c/o Prior House
6 Tilbury Place
Bathgate BN2 2GY

Dartington EF!
c/o CVS
Bennet House
Hawthornesmet
Dartington
Co Durham
01325 356586

Deri Valley EF!
c/o SWAN
PO Box 4
Buckfastleigh
Devon

No Derby ByPass
88 Abbey Street
Derby DE2

Doncaster EF!
c/o 54 Wellgate
Conisborough, DN12 3HN
01302 882471

Earth ARC
Box 1
111 Magdalen Rd
Oxford OX1 1RQ

LEAF
c/o 70 High St
Leicester LE1 5YP
01865 712522

Fax: 01865 712522
Email: earth@gn.apc.org

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon

Heiernburgh
Dunbarshire
Scotland, G84 8HT
01436 820901

Felkistown EF!
'Merrow'

Felkistown Ferry
Suffolk IP11 9RZ
01473 274153

Glasgow EF!
PO Box 180,
Glasgow, G4 9AB
0141 226 5066

Green Anarchist Network
BCN 1715
London, WC1N 3XX

Green Revolution
PO Box 845
Bristol BS99 5HQ

Gwynedd EF!
c/o 8 Victoria Place
Bethesda
Gwynedd LL57 3AG
01248 600286/364088

Hilltop EF!
9 Hardens Close
Chippingham
Wiltshire BA15 3AA
01249 650078

Huntingdon EF!
PO Box 83
Huntingdon
Cambs PE18 9HU

Kingston EF!
PO Box 370A
Surbiton,
Surrey KT6 4YN

No M65
c/o 144 Manley Street,
Whalley Range,
Manchester M16 8WD

Tel: 0161 861 7895 (v fax)
Mobile: 0165 164 311

Lune EF!
c/o 78a Penny St,
Lancaster, LA1 1XN
01524 383163

Pilpita EF!
Mewkins Cottage
Bell View, Leadhills
Lanarkshire

Ails Muir 16 XU
01659 74434

Leeds EF!
16 Shirock Ave
Chappeltown
Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 282 9365

cornerstone@gn.apc.org

London Greenpeace
5 Caledonian Rd
Kings Cross
London N1 9DX
0171 837 7557

Manchester EF!
Dept 29, 1 Newton St
Manchester M1 1HW
0161 274 4655

grassroots@gn.apc.org

Merseyseie EF!
PO Box 187
160 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool L69 7BR
0151 794 4167

Newcastle EF!
0191 272 4964

No M11 Link (Info)
PO Box 956
Lyntonstone Delivery Office
Joseph Ray Rd,
Lyntonstone

London E11 1AA
0181 5274895

nom11link@gn.apc.org

Notts EF!
Box E
180 Mansfield Rd
Nottingham
0115 958 5666

Oxford EF!
Box E
111 Magdalen Rd
Oxford, OX1 1RQ
01865 721898

Piltonia EF!
Mewkins Cottage
Bell View, Leadhills
Lanarkshire

Alba Muir 16 XU
01659 74434

Rainbow Centre
The Old Church
23 Hightgate Road
Kenish Town
London NW8
0171 2570828

Reading EF!
Box 56
Reading Sun Institute,
30 Silver St.,
Reading RG1 2ST

Reclaim the Streets
2 Crossways,
Dalston Kingsland,
London N16 8HX
0171 254 2290

SEAN,
174 Fife Fife,
Yarmouth,
Stone,
Staffs, ST15 0PE,
01785 701016

Sedgemoor EF!
8 Isle Port Road
Highbridge

Somerset TA8 4QX
01278 787146

No M11 Link (Actions)
1A High Street
Wanstead
London, E11
0181 9898741

Upper Nene EF!
Box E,

24 St. Michaels Avenue,
Northampton NN1
01604 39583

Fax: 01604 716357

Norwich EF!,
The GreenHouse,
48 Belb St.,
Norwich, Norfolk.
01603 631007

Fax: 01603 668879
nen@gn.apc.org

Notts EF!
Box E

180 Mansfield Rd
Nottingham
0115 958 5666

South Downs EF!
c/o Prior House

Tisbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY

Stroud Valleys EF!
39 Bowbridge Lock
Stroud

Glos GL5 2JY
01453 757642

Swansseie EF!
c/o Freedom Collective

PO Box 235
Mumbles

Swansseie GA3 4YY
sa3thomp@swanssea.ac.uk

Wolves EF!
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabo

Box H
Wolves University Students
Union

Wulfruna St
Wolverhampton

Yeovil FN
28 Legion Road
Yeovil

Somerset BA21 3AX

York EF!

c/o Green CND,
University Union,
Heslington,
York YO1 5DD

01904 422956
socso203@vaxa.york.ac.uk

Mid-Somerset EF!

PO Box 23

5 High St

Glastonbury

Somerset BA6 9PU

01458 831545

Sheffield EF!

c/o Sheff

201 Crookes Valley Rd

Sheffield S10 1BA

0114 2534144

bjgoss@pine.shu.ac.uk

Solsbury Hill Action Group

c/o 103 Ringswell Gdns

Bath, Avon, BA6 6BW

01225 448556

Solent Spanners

c/o South Hampshire

Freedom Network

October Books

Onslow Road

Southampton

01794 512790

South Downs EF!

c/o Prior House

Tisbury Place

Brighton BN2 2GY

Stroud Valleys EF!

39 Bowbridge Lock

Stroud

Glos GL5 2JY

01453 757642

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c/o Freedom Collective

PO Box 235

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Somerset BA21 3AX

York EF!

c/o Green CND,

University Union,

Heslington,

York YO1 5DD

01904 422956

socso203@vaxa.york.ac.uk

Toxic Alert!

PO Box 29

Ellesmere Port

South Wirral, L66 3TX

01978 820819

cats@gn.apc.org

The Wilderness

PO Box 3

St. Just-In-Penwith

Cornwall

TR19 7YB

SUPPORT GROUPS

Corporate Watch

Box CW

111 Magdalen Road

Oxford, OX4 1RQ

01865 245016

Dead Trees EF!

Box 25, 82 Colston St,

Bristol, BS1 5BB

Earth First Action Update

Box P

Cardiff CF2 4XX,

01222 383363

Fax: 01222 640666

ActionUpdate @gn.apc.org

Earth First! Journal

POB 1415

Eugene OR97440

USA

Earth Liberation Prisoners

c/o Mid-Somerset EF!

P.M Blackmore @ncl.ac.uk

Freedom Network

372 Coldharbour Lane

Brixton

London SW9 8PT

0171 376 6721

Fax: 0171 737 4320

freedomnet@gn.apc.org

Actions: 0171 501 9253

Justice? Legal Defence

c/o Prior House

6 Tilbury Place

Brighton BN2 2GY

01273 685913

justice@intermedia.co.uk

Road Alert!

PO Box 554

Newbury

Berkshire RG14 5FB

01635 521770

Fax: 01635 521660

roadalert@gn.apc.org

Smallworld Media

1a Waterlow Rd

London N19 5NJ

0171 727 5255

smallworld@gn.apc.org

Toxic Alert!

PO Box 29

Ellesmere Port

South Wirral, L66 3TX

01978 820819

cats@gn.apc.org

The Wilderness

PO Box 3

St. Just-In-Penwith

Cornwall

TR19 7YB

Let us know of any alterations to this list. Changes in bold. We're unsure if underlined groups exist.

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